Grimm

STAATS-
BIBLIOTHEK
BERLIN

25 Holy-well S.t Millbank
Westminster May Day 1848

My dear Sir,

For so I trust You will permit me to address You, letting my knowledge of some of your interesting and admirable books stand in the place of that personal knowledge, which I have not the good fortune to enjoy – our mutual friend J. E. Taylor tells me he is sure You will not think me intrusive in writing to You – and as I have the opportunity of doing so – on sending the monthly part of the Athenæum. I gladly avail myself of his sanction.

To Dr Jacob Grimm.

I am the more anxious to do so, as I find I have been the innocent cause of inflicting a great weekly tax upon You in the shape of postage for the Athenæum. When I got the Conductors of that periodical to admit into their columns contributions on the subject of Folk Lore (a word I ventured to Coin to supply a want greatly felt in our literature) it immediately occurred to me that You as the head of that branch of literature - the european head ought to know what England could contribute to your Deutsche Mythologie. Finding that by the postal convention You ought to receive the Athenæum free, I sent it to You week by week. Some post office here I think done you a wrong, but be that as it may - I have altered the arrangement & shall now have the pleasure of sending You it in Monthly parts. I hope therefore that You will feel I have some excuse for gratifying a wish I have long felt that of being honoured with an occasional Note from You. In the Articles which I myself jotted down under the head of Shakspeare & Folk Lore - I felt that the Notes from Cornwall in which I have preserved some notices on the subject of the Cornish Fairies - or Piskeys as they are called - and the belief that Moths and Butterflies were Piskeys or Fairies - and the souls of the departed - were matters that would greatly interest You - more especially as these peculiar views are found in that part of the country, where the ancient British Language, was spoken during the last century.

Should You in acknowledging this Note, favour me with any comments on these curious points, or any other of the Folk Lore papers which seem to You deserving of notice, I forewarn You, that unless You forbid me, I shall give the English Readers the benefit of such comments.

I enclose with this some few matters connected with our popular literature which You would not very readily obtain in Germany - and on the principle that Trifles show respect - Copies of a little paper of mine on the White Horse of Berkshire, which may do me the favour to accept

Believe me, my dear Sir
with the greatest respect and esteem
Yours very sincerely
William J Thoms